

PLACEMENT REPORTING ALERT!!

LRE Reporting: It is very important that the December 2, 2002 placement data accurately portray the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) picture in New Jersey. Placement data for students with disabilities ages three through five are reported on Tables three and four of the Annual Data Report (ADR). The placement data for students with disabilities ages six through 21 are reported on Tables seven, eight, nine and 10. Some districts have reported that the placement data may not reflect the actual settings in which students are placed due to programming conventions incorporated in some computer software. In particular, the amount of time spent with general education students may have been under-reported because of confusion on how the percent of time within the general education class was calculated.

Include the daily average number of minutes they are participating with general education students (e.g., instruction, study time, lunch, recess, pass-time between classes) in the numerator calculating the percent of the school day that students are included in general education (see attached examples as to how to calculate the average number of minutes in the presence of general education students).

Use the school day (the denominator) as the number of minutes between the first bell and the last bell.

Make sure that the minutes students receive special education or related services in the presence of general education students is counted as time in the presence of general education students. In some cases, the number of minutes the student received special education in the presence of general education students (e.g., in-class support) was inappropriately calculated as time outside the general education class. If this error has been inadvertently incorporated into your software, it must be corrected.

Please review your computer software and data entry procedures to make sure that they conform to the placement setting definitions in the attached ADR directions.

Please call Stacy Pellegrino at 609-341-3285, if you have any questions about how to report student placements.